



To support the Jewish community spiritually, provide opportunities for religious and additional experiences, and encourage social interaction. To nurture respect, understanding and friendship among all residents and faith groups at Ann's Choice.

September 2023
Elul/Tishrei 5783/5784

High Holiday services are open to **RESIDENTS ONLY** again this year.
You have the option to wear a mask if you wish.

Friday, September 1: **NO SERVICES**

Monday, September 4: **LABOR DAY**
NO TORAH STUDY

Tuesday, September 5: Jewish Heritage-Judaism Today, Liberty Music Room, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 8: *Shabbat Services in the Chapel or on Channel 980 – 4 p.m.*
Torah Portion: Ki Teitzei Barbara Steiner delivering the *D'var Torah*

Saturday, September 9: **LEIL SELICHOT** at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel with **RABBI ERIC WISNIA**

Friday, September 15: **NO SERVICES**

Saturday, September 16: **ROSH HASHANA SERVICES**, 2 p.m. in the Chapel with Neil Goldstein

Sunday, September 17: **ROSH HASHANA, NO SERVICES**

Monday, September 18: **TASHLICH** with Rabbi Aaron Gaber from Brothers of Israel, 2 p.m. by the pond at Liberty Commons, Rain Date, Tuesday, September 19.

Thursday, September 21: **ROSH HASHANA DINNER, BY RESERVATION ONLY**

Friday, September 22: *Shabbat Services in the Chapel or on Channel 980 – 4 p.m.*
Torah Portion: Ha'Azinu Leslie Kreithen delivering *D'Var Torah*
SHABBAT SHUVA

Sunday, September 24: **KOL NIDRE**, 7 P.M. in the Chapel with Neil Goldstein and the Bryn Athyn Choir

Monday, September 25: **YOM KIPPUR, YIZKOR** 2 P.M. in the Chapel with Neil Goldstein

Wednesday, September 27: JRC Lecture Series with Dr. Zev Eleff, 2 p.m. in the Chapel

Friday, September 29: Shabbat Services in the Chapel or on Channel 980 – 4 p.m. **Bernie Roseman** delivering *D'Var Torah*
EREV SUKKOT

Saturday, September 30 to Friday, October 6: **SUKKOT NO SERVICES VISIT THE SUCCA!**

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO TORAH STUDY IN SEPTEMBER

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE JEWISH RESIDENTS' COUNCIL:

BY

Barbara Steiner
Thelma Krefetz
Miriam Schwartz
Judith Borochaner
Shirley Horowitz
Edith Goldstein
Delcy Weinberg
Laurie and Steve Capin
Beatrice Ratko

Sondra Zuckerman
Etta Krauss
Joan Winokur
Phyllis Zebin
Judy Tashman
Jacqueline Matlow
Gloria Ceaser

Dinah Heller
Shirley Horowitz

BY

Barbara Steiner

Zelda Litt
Joan Garber

Reba Pollock
Annette and Alan Herring
Delcy Weinberg
Sylvia and Stanley Ziserman
Anna Steinhart
Alice Forman
Hildegarde Goodstein
Shoshana Gruen
Laurie and Steve Capin

Zelda Stern
René & Morton Stein
Ann Kalmanor
Gloria Ceaser

Anne Slowicki
Elinor Pressel

IN MEMORY OF

Fannette Asinofsky
Mollie Goldberg, beloved mother
Bella Abeloff, beloved mother
Benjamin Hoffman, beloved father
Sumner Rotman, dear brother
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Carole Hoffman
Jack and Bessie Soffer, beloved parents
William Braverman, beloved husband
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Bruce Winokur, beloved son
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
my mother and father and all my loved ones
Carole Hoffman
Harry Molitz, beloved father
Harold Coopersmith
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Sylvia Brown Horowitz
Ruth Marcus, dear sister

IN HONOR OF

Marty Freedman and Mimi Travis for their kindness
Leslie Kreithen's kindness
Shoshana Gruen's 100th birthday
Shoshana Gruen's 100th birthday
get-well wishes to Harold Woolf
speedy recovery to Sylvia Horowitz
get-well wishes to Laurie Capin
Barbara Steiner for taking care of Misheberach for the JRC
Tzedakah
M.S.S. Del.S.M.
get-well wishes to Ellen Newman
the JRC Board
Myra Wolis' special birthday
Ronald Rosenberg's special birthday
Rhoda Sterling's special birthday
Laurie and Steve Capin's 51st anniversary
Shoshana Gruen on her 100th birthday
Ronald Rosenberg's 90th birthday
get-well wishes to Judy Rosenberg
Shoshana Gruen's special birthday
the JRC as I am enjoying all programs and dinners
Nancy Lever, daughter of Judy Tashman

****HAPPY BIRTHDAY****

Albert Erlick, Selma Izes, Shirley Stein, Annette Flexner, Fischel Meyers, Dan Shelikoff, Phyllis Levitt, Judy Lipman, Arlyne Elgart, Shirley Horowitz, Sherry Resnick, Deborah Hochberg, Nancy Benowitz, Janis Shuter, Harvey Roth, Jeanne Issacman, Ellen Matter and Roberta Dunaief.

If your name is not on the list, please let me know your birth date and you will be included next September.

***MISHEBERACH*
WE PRAY FOR HEALING**

For all our residents who are ill, in the hospital or in RG or other nursing homes

*****Yahrzeits for Elul/Tishrei*****

During the months of **5 Elul to 5 Tishrei**, we remember our friends and family who are no longer with us:

Samuel Marks, Gerald Shur, Dora Stein, George M. Cohen, Benjamin Grindlinger, Katie Carmen, Warren Josephs, Maxwell H. Cohen, Stanley Fingerman, Charlotte Pearlman, Leon Visnov, Judi C. Altman, Ida Poplow, Lillian Simon, Sarah Goldie Shander, Nettie Shemin, Sam Frand, Ervin Chudnow, Esther Factor, Lorraine Levick, Seymour Neagle, Esther Carmen, Manny Stein, Arnold Weiss, Louis Shapiro, Aaron Goldman, Jeffrey Chairnoff, David Salamon, Ida Wernick, Benjamin Abeloff, Gussie Hayden, Matt Levy, Honey Rose Taylor, Charles Heller, Ethel Kapner, Lillian Woolf, Celia Rabinowitz, Miriam Meer Smulowitz, Naomi Klinger, Chester Bahr, Edith Chary, Bessie Glass, Sara Zwickel



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**L'SHANA TOVA TIKATEVU
B'ROSH HASHANAH YIKATEVUN
WRITTEN**

UV YOM TZOM KIPPUR YECHATEMUN

**A GOOD AND SWEET NEW YEAR
ON ROSH HASHANA IT IS**

ON YOM KIPPUR IT IS SEALED

Selichot is the official start of the High Holy Days. This year it is Saturday, September 9, 2023. *Selichot* are usually recited between midnight and dawn. When my synagogue, Ohev Shalom, was in its infancy, we held *Selichot* services at midnight, when it was dark and quiet. It has always been a very moving service for me.

The month of Elul is dedicated to *teshuvah*, which means to return. In Judaism, we look at *teshuva* as repentance or to return but it really means, "Missing the Mark." We can try harder to hit the bull's eye as we look into ourselves. We return to ourselves through introspection and to the Light through repentance for any negative actions we may have done. It is not enough to just do this connection; we must also feel repentance for those actions and seek to correct them. The negative actions that we do determine our destiny. *Teshuvah* is the means through which we can reverse the effects of our negative past actions. It gives us the ability to go back in time and transform the negative into positive. Therefore, we can change history through our thoughts, remove chaos from our lives, and balance the accounts that remain open between ourselves and others.

This is the season to begin the process of asking forgiveness for wrongs done to other people. According to Jewish tradition, God cannot forgive us for wrongs committed against another person until we have first obtained forgiveness from the person we have wronged. If you are not forgiven, you must approach the person three different times. If the person still does not forgive you, you can get forgiveness from God because you have done *teshuva*. If I have wronged or offended any of you, please accept my *s'licha*, I'm sorry.

Again, may each and every one of you be sealed in the Book of Life for a happy and healthy 5784.



WP 108

presidentjrc@yahoo.com

The JRC Board Members

President—Phyllis Halpern, WP 108
Vice-President, **Liberty Commons Rep**—
Barbara Steiner, BC 419
Treasurer, Entertainment—Mimi Travis, MC405
Recording Secretary—Sandy Heller, PV 118
Corresponding Secretary—Barbara Josephs, TC 108
Education Chair—Amiram Amitai
At Large—Saul Jacobs, BR 513

Membership—Sandy Sham, HR 403
Music—René Stein, LP 410
Fund Raising Chair, **Keystone Rep**—
Sylvia Ziserman, HV 406
Publicity Chair—Bernie Roseman, HR 109
Religious Chair—Steve Capin, TC 507
Village Rep—Joan and Marty Freedman, DT 315

**If you meet new residents who are interested in joining us, please refer them to
Sandy Sham, Membership Chair.**

What's Happening in the JRC



**May the sound of the shofar
Herald a wonderful year
That's filled with good fortune,
Good health and good cheer;
Joy that is lasting
And all of life's finest
To you and to yours.**

History of
Jewish Philadelphia
1740-1880(ish)
Dr. Michael Schatz



Dr. Michael Schatz joined us on June 28 for a very interesting afternoon discussing the early Philadelphia community once again.



Dr. Michael Tabachnick joined us on July 26 for a wonderful presentation on the *Genesis and the Big Bang*. About 150 people attended for this thought-provoking discussion.

HELP WANTED

We need people to help decorate the *Succah*
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Rain date Thursday September 28, 2023
Beginning at 10:30 AM
Call Barbara Steiner, 215-206-8417 or
Steve Capin, 215-394-8689

THE COLUMBUS CONUNDRUM

by Nina Haydel, Ed.D.

History Lesson #2: A Man of Mystery: Christopher Columbus, Perhaps a Jew?

We now understand life at the time of Columbus and will marvel at the contradictions and mysteries that surround the man. As you have seen, the Middle Ages were not yet dead. Imagination frequently supplanted reality and supposition frequently replaced fact. Superstition, the supernatural, and the occult were the accepted norms. Accuracy of documents used as historical reference is questionable, leading to confusion and disagreement, even today.

Columbus's birth is the beginning of the mystery. Ten nations have claimed him as their own, citing a variety of spellings of his name. *Colombo* exists in Corsica; *Colon* exists in Spain; *Colom* in Portugal; *Coullon* in France, Galicia, Extremadura, Catalonia, and others that also claim to be his birthplace. The conventional belief is that Columbus was born in Genoa, although, according to dissenters, this has never been proven. Probably born just inside Porta dell' Olivelia, he was son of Domenico Colombo, a wool weaver of the Ligurian Coast, and Suzanna, daughter of wool-weaver Giacomo Fontana-rossa, and grandson of Giovanni Colombo, also a wool-weaver. A family friend, Antonio Gallo, in 1506, described the family as plebian.

Columbus himself was silent about his birthplace, alluding to it only once in his writings. Speculations about his reasons range from embarrassment over humble beginnings and possible religious affiliation, to shame over his father's beheading, which supposedly resulted from a political situation in Catalonia.

This, in turn, opens another major controversy: Was Columbus a Christian at all? Was he perhaps a Converso, that is, a Jew who converted to Christianity? By the end of the 14th century and throughout the 15th century, fearing Jews' power, this created circumstances leading to wholesale conversions of Jews by Christians. Those Jews "washed in the purifying waters of baptism (16:169) were known as Conversos, Marranos, or crypto-Jews. Spaniards had given their own names to non-Christians whom they baptized. Thousands of Jews still bear Spanish noble names their ancestors received on the days of conversion.

Severe persecution persisted, however, and many Jews became nominal Christians while privately they continued to maintain Jewish customs. The forced conversions of Jews to Christianity in Spain during this period have led historians to consider the possibility that Columbus' ancestors may have fled to Genoa, since weaving (the occupation of Columbus's family) was particularly a Jewish profession in Mediterranean Spain. Documents are said to have been found by Garcia de la Riega, that substantiate Jewish persecutions in about 1444 C.E., which caused Jews to flee to towns near Genoa. Jews were not admitted to the actual city, so they established ghettos (exclusively Jewish settlements) nearby with such names as Domingo,

Bartholome, and Cristobal,

Forged documents and linguistic puzzles further the mystery. Therefore, Columbus's writings were either in Castilian (first dated document 1481) or Hispanicized Latin. Except for one or two short pages, he never wrote in Italian, a literary language. Columbus is known to have had knowledge of Greek, Hebrew, Latin (the type taught in Galicia), Portuguese, imperfect Spanish with no particular regionalism, and poor Italian. Interestingly, when naming places in the New World, Columbus used names from geographic regions in Catalonia and Valencia, but never from Italy.

Let us examine Columbus's family name with regard to these circumstances. According to Jewish historian Marcus, "Colon was a name common among Jews." Dr Cecil Roth, in an article "Who was Columbus?" says, "It is an extraordinary fact that among Italian Jews, the transition from 'Colon' to 'Colombo' and visa- versa, which needs so much explanation, was not only possible, but invariable."

The surname 'Colombo' is, even today, frequently found in Italy. Sometimes it is simply the Italian translation of the Hebrew name 'Jonah' or 'Dove'. Roth states that he doesn't mean to imply that Columbus belonged to that Jewish family of Colon, but this certainly makes us wonder, considering that Columbus changed his name four times. Although Giovanni, Columbus's grandfather's name and Domenico, his father's name are not Jewish names, they may have attempted to hide their background. An equally dense Columbian fog surrounds the behavior of the man, both as an adult and as a professional. Apparently, Columbus never looked back once he left Genoa at the age of twelve or thirteen. He seems to have wanted to forget his life there and perhaps his link to his Jewish origins. Why did Columbus select the day following the 7th of Av to depart with his passengers, many who were Jews?

Did Columbus ever have Jewish status? With such facts and broken threads, unanswered and unanswerable questions, and multiple interpretations easily woven into some anomalous patterns, we can only continue to wonder about the man who is said to have discovered the New World. Data filtered through the times, the experiences, and the contemplations of historians which seem to have created multiple versions of Christopher Columbus and his history. Since absolute truths are elusive and historians are numerous, we need to sit back, wonder and select what evidence we wish, in order to answer the mystery: Who really was Christopher Columbus? Could he have been a Jew?

ROSH HASHANA IS COMING

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

5784 — 2023
IN THE CHAPEL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	LEIL SELICHOT 7:30 P.M. WITH RABBI ERIC WISNIA
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15	EREV ROSH HASHANA NO SERVICES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16	ROSH HASHANA 5784 2 P.M WITH NEIL GOLDSTEIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17	ROSH HASHANA II NO SERVICES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	TASHLICH 2 P.M. WITH RABBI AARON GABER
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	ROSH HASHANA DINNER IN THE KEYSTONE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM BEGINNING 5:15 P.M.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	SHABBAT SHUVA SERVICES, 4 P.M.— Leslie Kreithen delivering Dvar Torah
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	EREV YOM KIPPUR KOL NIDRE 7 P.M. WITH NEIL GOLDSTEIN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	YOM KIPPUR, YIZKOR 2 P.M. WITH NEIL GOLDSTEIN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	EREV SUKKOT SERVICES 4 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 7	SUKKOT VISIT OUR SUKKUAH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7	SHEMINI ATZERET YIZKOR SERVICES 2 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8	SIMCHAT TORAH NO SERVICES

